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OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES: OTHER ISSUES

Written statement* submitted by the World Union for Progressive Judaism, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 July 2002]

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*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Genocidal Charter of Hamas

1. Recognizing that the right to life is a right from which all other rights flow, the worst crime against humanity is premeditated GENOCIDE! Article III (a) (b) and (c) of the 1948 Genocide Convention state that the following acts are punishable: Genocide; Conspiracy to commit genocide; and Direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

2. The premeditated terrorist massacre by Hamas on the Jewish Passover of 2002 needs to be seen in its true context. The current Islamist "*jihad* ideology" is part and parcel of the 1988 Charter of Hamas, inspired by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, its founder and spiritual leader.

3. Just after his return to Gaza to a rapturous reception in October 1997, Sheikh Yassin declared that Israel must "disappear from the map." He also said: "We have an aim and an enemy, and we shall continue our *jihad* against the enemy. A nation without *jihad* is a nation without a purpose." (*AP*, 22 October 1997). In February 1998, Sheikh Yassin toured the Gulf region for three months, visiting over a dozen Arab countries. Everywhere he went he preached in mosques, while his official audiences were broadcast on television. Since then, he has repeated his politicidal/genocidal goal.

4. Last year, an alliance was declared between Chairman Arafat's Palestinian Authority and Hamas that resulted in the freeing of all convicted Hamas terrorists. In March 2002, Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades recently joined Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas on the U.S. list of world terrorist groups. It immediately sent a girl *jihad*ist-bomber to kill and maim on a Sabbath eve in Jerusalem, followed 24 hours later by a male *jihad*ist-bomber in Tel Aviv. The families of *jihad*ist-bombers receive a cheque of $25,000 from Saddam Hussein.

5. Hamas is the acronym for "Islamic Resistance Movement", whose meaning, is "fanaticism". The Hamas Charter offers stereotype images, perpetuated in a Culture of Hate. Aside from the usual mad gibberage inspired by *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, it is committed to a genocidal *jihad* ideology against "the Jews," and this Culture of Hate is repeated again and again in official sermons at mosques in Gaza and elsewhere, which are shown on the official television of the Palestinian Authority.

6. Religious justification is provided for this genocidal ideology by a controversial *hadith* - now a commonplace slogan with Islamists worldwide - which is the conclusion to article 7 of the Charter: "*...The Prophet, Allah bless and grant him salvation has said: 'The Day of Judgment will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews, until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: O Muslim! O Abdullah*! (Slave of Allah!) *there is a Jew behind me come on and kill him...*"

7. Article 8 is the slogan of the Hamas Movement inducing its adepts to kill infidels in the name of Allah when called upon: "*Allah is its goal, the Prophet its model, the Qur'an its Charter, jihad its path, and death for the cause of Allah its most sublime belief.*

8. Article 13 states: "*There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad. All initiatives, proposals and international conferences are a waste of time and vain endeavours.*" The message in Article 28 illustrates vividly the genocidal terror aim of the *jihad*ist bombings: *"Israel, Judaism and Jews challenge Islam and the Muslim people: 'May the cowards never sleep*'!"

9. Article 2 of the Charter insists that Hamas is a wing of the international Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1922. On 18 March 2002, a Muslim Brotherhood event assembled 1'000 fanatics at Egypt's Al-Azhar University - "different than all previous demonstrations". They heard Hamas leader Sheikh Yassin's voice calling on them to take the *jihad* path. An Egyptian candidate was reported as

saying that he was "*one of the first of the martyrs* [*jihad*ist-bombers] *to choose to die in order to defend the Muslim Palestinian people.*" (*Al-Mustaqbal*, Beirut, 19 March 2002, English trans. by MEMRI Special Dispatch-Egypt/Jihad and Terrorism Studies N° 358, 22 March 2002: www.memri.org).

10. On 4 April 2002, the highest Sunni spiritual leader issued a religious ruling from Al-Azhar: "*The great Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, demanded that the Palestinian people, of all factions, intensify the martyrdom operations against the Zionist enemy, and described their martyrdom as the highest form of jihad. He says that the young people executing them have granted Allah the most precious thing. He emphasized that every martyrdom operation against any Israeli, including women, children and teenagers, is a legitimate act according to religious law, and an Islamic commandment...*" (www.lailatalqadr.com/stories/n040401.shtml (4 April 2002); English trans. in MEMRI report of 8 April 2002. Special Dispatch-Egypt/Jihad & Terrorism Studies, 7 April, N° 363/www.memri.org)

11. A written Charter or Constitution cannot simply be ignored. Hitler understood this when he wrote in the 1924 preface to *Mein Kampf*: "*The unity and uniformity of a doctrine can only be safeguarded if it has been fixed forever in a written text.*" Few people bothered to read *Mein Kampf* then and fewer still have bothered to read the Hamas Charter. It is high time that this be done now.

12. In a Report last year (E/CN.4/2001/114, §24), the High Commissioner for Human Rights referred to "hate speech and incitement. She was shocked by calls, broadcast on Palestinian television and radio, urging the killing of all Jews." At Durban, she identified personally with "Jews", who were being vilified en bloc (as in the 1930s), an act that has tarnished the United Nations indelibly.

13. The World Union for Progressive Judaism again calls on the High Commissioner for Human Rights - and this Sub-Commission - to address a solemn appeal to Muslim spiritual and secular leaders to condemn this *jihad* ideology. Such a condemnation should include the Hamas genocidal Charter.

14. The current policy of silence - on such a grave religious issue - by Muslim spiritual and secular leaders from the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), as well as from the international community, on this "Ideology of *Jihad*" implicitly condones as normative a great evil of our time, thereby encouraging future *jihad*ist-bombers, whose actions should be considered by Muslims and non-Muslims alike as a defamation of Islam.